



Handheld + Cell Phone = Wireless

Feature By Denny Atkin

All it takes to get hooked on wireless Internet access from your handheld is to try it. The convenience of being able to pull out your handheld anywhere and check email, look up data on the web, or see which of your dot com stocks certificates to use to line the cat box is great. What holds back a lot of folks from joining the wireless party is the expense—a couple hundred bucks to buy a wireless modem (although they can often be had for less if you commit to a certain length of service—Omnisky is offering a “free modem” deal currently). Also, there’s the \$40+ a month for wireless access charge. So what if I told you that you may already have a Palm-device-compatible wireless modem in your pocket right now?

Although the cell phone companies haven’t made a big deal out of this feature, many current phones can be connected to a handheld and used as a wireless modem. All you need is a cable (sometimes an infrared connection will even work) and the software setup information. No extra hardware is necessary, and the only charge is your standard per-minute cell phone fee. And a Palm device is much easier to use than those horrible cell-phone text browsers.

What you need is a digital cell phone that follows either the GSM or CDMA standard. (Check with your carrier if you’re not sure which standard it uses.) TDMA, the standard used by carriers such as Cellular One in many markets, unfortunately doesn’t support modem-style communication.

If you’re using a GSM phone, your best bet is probably to grab [Palm’s Mobile Internet Kit](#), which



makes setup very easy, and includes email software and support for using wireless PQA applications. You can also find a good setup tutorial for GSM phones at users.zipworld.com.au/~rmills/IR2.htm. (The site will soon move to the MyWirelessPalm.com URL.)

If you’re using a more common CDMA phone, you’ll need a cable that connects the serial port of your Palm device, and you’ll also need to set up your Network Prefs to dial either your ISP or the cell phone provider’s data service. For cables, we’ve been using Motorola-compatible serial cables from www.cables4pdas.com (pictured) on our Visor Prism, and one from www.syncablesolutions.com for our Palm IIIc and Handera 330.

Both work very well with a Motorola Startac 7868 using Verizon as a provider. For other cell phones, check out www.markspace.com and www.thesupplynet.com, both of whom offer a variety of serial solutions for Palms and Visors.

The folks Cables4PDAs kindly offer a brief tutorial for setting up your Palm for use with CDMA phones on Sprint and Verizon on their site. You can find a more elaborate tutorial for Sprint setup at www.geocities.com/bobstro/sprint_pcs_qnc.htm. For Verizon, the company has a PDF setup guide at www.verizonwireless.com/images/mobile_office/getting_started/palm_userguide.pdf.

Of course, dedicated wireless solutions like OmniSky have advantages, not the least of which is an all-in-one package instead of a separate cable and phone. Still, if you already have the right phone, this is an inexpensive entry into the wireless handheld world.

News

Palm m700/m705 Rumored!

Palm has already admitted that it’s working on a new wireless device, and it appears that images of a prototype have leaked. Thanks to Hal-J over at [top-notch](http://top-notch.com)



rumor site [PalmStation](http://PalmStation.com), we’ve secured these images of a prototype next-generation wireless Palm.

Of course, there’s always a chance these images could be very, very clever fakes. But con-



sidering Palm registered the domain names palmm700.com and palmm705.com in late March. Palm m705 seems to indicate a color wireless device, a thought that gets us very excited. Rumor has it that these devices will use the Spring CDMA network, although Cingular has been mentioned as well.

New Products

AddInfrared to Your Printer

The makers of PrintBoy Deluxe have introduced the InfraReady adapter, which plugs into your printer’s parallel port and adds the capability to beam documents from your Palm device for printing. \$55.99.

www.bachmannsoftware.com

OmniSky

Get a FREE Wireless Modem Today!

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Let's clear one thing up from the start: viewing it outdoors. The Palm m505's color screen is not as bad as some reviewers have made it out to be. It's true that the frontlight needed for use in low lighting conditions is rather dim. In fact, if you put the m505 next to a Visor Prism or Sony's new Clié, the light does look rather wimpy. But taken on its own, it actually provides plenty of light for regular use. One reason

the Prism's backlight is so bright is that Weekly issues 76 and 80 for more info it must be cranked up to have a hope of on the m500 series. -Denny Atkin

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